in different stages. The Public Canals and Ferries Bill was dealt with in Committee, and later on in the Council, during the year. It has been finally passed into law since the year closed. The Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Civil Courts was dealt with in Committee, and the Committee's report was also considered by the Council, during the year. The Bill awaits final passing. The Treasure Trove Bill, the Arms Bill and the Factories Bill were introduced into the Council and referred to Committees during the year. Leave to introduce was given in regard to several Bills during the year, of which the most important was the Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. This Bill has been introduced into the Council since the close of the year. The High Court Regulation Amendment Bill, which had been introduced into the Council in 1081, was withdrawn, as it was considered that the question of amending the constitution of the High Court should lie over till the constitution of the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court had been amended. The Registration Regulation Amendment Bill was also withdrawn during the year, as it was found that the amendments proposed were not exhaustive and it was considered expedient to withdraw the defective Bill, so that a more exhaustive one might be introduced later on.

It was urged at the last session that legislation should be undertaken for the purpose of making certain changes in the customary law governing Marumakkathayies and I then promised tha the whole question would be referred to a Committee for investigation and report. A Committee was appointed—with Mr. Justice Govinda Pillai as the President—the enquiry being restricted to the Samantha and Nair communities. The report of the Committee has been received and has been ordered to be published in the Gazette. Public opinion—of the communities affected—has been invited and the question would be taken up for consideration six months hence.

Police.

17. Revision of staff.—The scale of pay of the subordinate ranks of the force was revised during the year. There were, according to the old scale, seven classes of Inspectors, with pay ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100, three of Head Constables, from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20, and three of Constables, from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8. Under the revised scale, Inspectors are divided into five grades on Rs. 50, 75, 100, 125 and 150, and the Constables into two grades on Rs. 8 and 7. The horse allowance of the Inspectors was raised from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per mensem and local allowances were increased in certain cases. The number of Inspectors was reduced by one. The net result of the reorganisation was an increase of annual expenditure to the extent of Rs. 25,641.

18. Crimes generally.—The number of cases reported to the Police, that dealt with by them, and the results of their action practically remained the same as in the previous year. There was one incident however which requires special mention and that is the serious riot which occurred in the Trivandrum town on the 8th June last. A mob collected in front of the Palace and began rioting there, and later on, it proceeded to the Fort Police Station and set fire to it, the result being that a portion of the building was burnt down. As the case is now under trial in the Trivandrum Sessions' Court, I refrain from making any observations, except to say that steps are being taken to amend the Police Regula-

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tion, so as to make provision for the quartering of special (punitive) police in disturbed areas, should a case of this kind recur. The Military had to be called out in connection with the riot at Trivandrum and His Highness' Government considered it necessary later on to direct that the Pangode Battalion should be recruited at once to its full sanctioned strength of 500. This has been done, with the result that the expenditure on the Military department stands as follows:—

Actuals of 1082	....	....	Rs. 2,04,673.
Actuals of 1083	....	....	Rs. 2,17,370.
Budget provision for 1084	....	....	Rs. 2,93,700.

Civil and Criminal Justice.

19. Criminal Justice.—As it was found that the Assistant Excise Commissioner at Alleppey, who was also the First Class Magistrate there, was unable, on account of his other multifarious duties, to devote adequate time to his magisterial work, His Highness' Government, on the representation of the High Court, created a separate First Class Magistrate's Court for the Alleppey town, the existing Second Class Magistrate's Court at the place being abolished. Again, as it was found that the revenue and devaswom duties of the Quilon Tahsildar were enough to occupy his whole attention and that that officer was unable to spare adequate time for his magisterial work, a Stationary Magistrate was located at Quilon, with first class powers, and with jurisdiction over the whole taluk, the Quilon Tahsildar being relieved of his magisterial duties and the Third Class Magistrate's Court at Paravur (in the Quilon taluk) being abolished. The state of crime generally and the working of the Criminal Courts showed no changes worth mentioning.

20. Civil Justice.—The following changes, sanctioned at the end of the previous year, were given effect to during the year under review, viz., the appointment of a Second Judge for the Quilon District Court as a temporary measure for one year, the permanent location of one of the itinerant Munsiffs' Courts as a regular Court at Chengannur with defined territorial jurisdiction, the permanent location of the other itinerant Munsiff's Court as an additional one at Quilon, the opening of a Munsiff's Court at Kanjirapalli by investing the local Magistrate with the powers of a Munsiff and the appointment of a separate Magistrate-Munsiff at Shencottah in supersession of the arrangement under which the local Tahsildar was exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction in addition to his revenue and other functions. The volume of fresh litigation—original and appellate—which came in during 1083 was practically the same as in the previous year and the arrears showed no signs of diminution. The number of original suits of more than two years' duration in the District Courts rose from 25 to 51 and that of appeals of similar duration from one to 8. The congestion of work was most marked in the Alleppey Court and steps have been taken since the close of the year to appoint two Additional Judges temporarily to this Court to clear off the arrears. His Highness' Government anticipate that, when the Civil Courts' Bill is passed into law, there would be a marked decline in the volume of original work coming into the District Courts. Under the Bill, the original powers of Munsiffs would rise from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 and their small cause powers from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. The appellate powers of District Courts would rise from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. As soon as the Bill is

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